

0301895335

Strawberry Hill  
West side of Thornton Mill  
Rd. near Western Rd.  
Not accessible  
1811 (dwelling)  
1808 (barn)

This substantial farm dwelling was erected a few years after the barn, indicative of its practical builder's priorities. The builder, Amos Ogden, was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates in 1805. He purchased one hundred fifty acres of a tract called Taylor's Discovery in 1794, a tract which had been patented in 1726 by Richard Taylor. Like all structures with reliable datestones, this one, which retains many of its original details, is a standard to use in establishing the dates of updated structures in the region.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Strawberry Hill

AND/OR COMMON

Hilltops

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West side of Thornton Mill Road near Western Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Allen C. Hopkins

Telephone #: 685-4847

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Thornton Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21152

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 4795

Folio #: 476

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

BA-189

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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Hilltops is a two and one-half storey rubble stone house, three bays in length, its principal facade to the south although its approach is from the north; it has an east wing of rubble stone, two bays in length, two storeys high. Both sections have gable roofs; flush end chimneys of brick rise from each end of the main house, while the flush end chimney of the east wing is of stone. A wing of mid-twentieth century construction extends north from the easterly bay of the wing; it is of frame, two bays in length, two storeys high with a brick and stone exterior chimney at the north gable end. The form of the new wing recalls that of the old.

High in the northwest corner, one of the roughly worked stone quoins is inscribed:

A. OGDEN  
1811

The general form and the many remaining original details of this house are consistent with this date. Traditionally, the east wing is considered earlier than the main house; there are no quoins and no visible joints in the masonry between the two sections, with the possible exception of the exposed portion of the foundation above grade on the south facade, where a vertical joint is suggested, inconclusively. Internally, the east wing has its own west wall at the cellar level only, suggesting the possibility that the foundation predates all construction above, having once supported a log structure, perhaps. Very little interior detailing

(see continuation sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES dwelling 1811; barn 1808 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hilltops bears an 1811 datestone and, as it retains many of its original details, can be used as a standard to establish the dates of other structures in the area.

Amos Ogden, the builder, was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates in 1805. In 1794, he purchased one hundred fifty acres of a tract called Taylor's Discovery which had been patented in 1726 by Richard Taylor for five hundred five acres. The barn which is now ruinous dated 1808, a fact indicative of Ogden's priorities. Undoubtedly he lived at first in one of the two old houses listed here on the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment.

By 1823, the present house and property belonged to two brothers, Thomas and Beal Price and was named "Strawberry Hill". An early deed gave the heirs of Amos Ogden "free access to the family vault". Where this was located has not been established.

The Prices were prominent in the neighborhood and members of the Gunpowder Friends' Meeting. They held the property until 1870 when it was sold to Mordecai Ensor and thereafter to a succession of owners. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Allen C. Hopkins, have lived here since 1967.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798.

Baltimore County Tax Assessments: 1823, 1876, 1896.

(see continuation sheet #4)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 30 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

6A-137

Strawberry Hill  
Valleys Historical District

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 continued

remains in the first storey of the wing, and original detailing in the second storey is traditional and cannot be conclusively dated.

The approximate measurements of the east wing are 14 by 18 feet, the latter dimension being the north-south one. No structure of this size was included on the 1798 Federal Direct Tax.

A one storey, one bay portico shelters the north entrance to the main house, through the middle bay. A one storey hipped roof porch shelters the south entrance; flanking bays are unusually wide, allowing the south porch to be three bays in length, as defined by its simple, square wooden columns, extending to, but not in front of, windows of flanking bays. Secondary entrances to the east wing are in the west bay of the south front and in the east bay of the north, now the entrance to the modern wing.

Windows are 6/6 and are flanked by paneled shutters below, louvred blinds above. Applied wooden lintels, shaped like a jack arch, are above each window. The second storey windows of the wing are pairs of four light casement sash. Sills are of roughly-worked stone.

The simple wooden cornice extends up the rakes of the main house with a moderate overhang; there are no horizontal returns at the eaves. Three dormer windows, dating from the mid-twentieth century, light the attic storey from each side, and two small windows flanking the chimney light it from the end; there are no other windows in the end.

(see continuation sheet #2)

Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 continued

Internally, a central hall extends through the middle bay, with an open staircase rising, with intermediate landings, to the third floor. A single room flanks the hall in each storey. Remaining original detailing includes the staircase with its chamfered newels and moulded handrail, chair railing throughout, many fully-raised six-panel doors and door architraves with ogee backband. Window trim, generally, appears to date from a period later in the nineteenth century, perhaps when the narrow window frames were installed. Window reveals of the west room in the first storey extend to the floor. Mantels are approximately contemporary with the house, but are said to have been installed in the twentieth century. A winding back stair once rose, enclosed, south of the east wing chimney; it has been removed, as have other interior details in the first storey of that wing.

The second floor plan is similar to the first; several closets have been added in the twentieth century, using doors contemporary with the house, and copies of the same. Ceilings in the two principal rooms of the second floor have large, simple plaster medallions on their ceilings. The west room has an architrave surround at what appears to be a fireplace, although there is neither firebox nor hearth, a condition which appears original. On plaster within the architrave surround is an early primitive painting of the house, the barn and springhouse.

The ceiling in the second storey of the wing is at the collar beams, which are exposed.

The third storey of the main house is finished in twentieth century materials and rafters are inaccessible to view.

(see continuation sheet #3)

Continuation Sheet #3

Question #7 continued

In the basement beneath the wing, once accessible at grade to the north (now beneath the north wing), is a large fireplace, fitted with a crane for cooking. A recess in the stonework at the back of the firebox suggests the opening to a former oven. The ceiling in the basement under the main house is plastered on hand-split lathe, fastened with wrought-iron nails. Walls are plastered on the stone. The space beneath the first storey's westerly fireplace and the two recesses flanking the chimney breast are finished as closets, with built-in shelves; architraves at their doors are joined with mortise and tenon, and applied ogee backbands are like those in the upper storeys.

Beneath the north entrance portico, accessible from the basement, is a vaulted stone structure, containing two rooms; the outer (northerly) room may once have been accessible from the outside through an entrance in the steep hillside, now somewhat minimized by the north addition to the house. The original function of these rooms was undoubtedly for cold storage of ice and root vegetables.

Southwest of the house are the stone walls of a former bank barn, which appears in the painting mentioned above. Beside a former entrance to the barn's lower storey is a stone inscribed:

A. OGDEN  
1808

Continuation Sheet #4

Question #9 continued

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and Baltimore County. (Philadelphia, 1881).

Sidney, J.C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland. (Baltimore, 1850).

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1877).